

THIRTIETH
ANNUAL
REPORT

Of the Sanitary Conditions
of the Rural District of
VAYNOR & PENDERYN

in the County of

Brecknock.

BY

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District Council.



Chairman, 1925-26 :

Councillor DAVID HARRIS, J.P.

Members :

Councillor JAMES DAVIES.

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„ Mrs. SARAH EVANS.

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134, High Street, Merthyr Tydfil.

Medical Officer :

Dr. W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.,
The Hollies, Merthyr Tydfil.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. WATKIN J. DAVIES,
Inglenook, Cefn Coed.

Treasurer :

Mr. FRANCIS PHILIP HARRIES,
Barclays Bank, Merthyr Tydfil.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Vaynor and Penderyn Rural District
Council.



MRS. EVANS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have to present to you the Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition and the Vital Statistics of the Rural District for the year 1925.

TOPOGRAPHY.

The RURAL DISTRICT consists of the two Parishes of Vaynor and Penderyn, in the County of Brecknock.

The PARISH OF VAYNOR comprises two valleys running northwards towards two spurs of the Brecknock Beacons, and the PARISH OF PENDERYN consists of a high tableland adjoining and emerging towards the same mountainous area. These Rural Parishes are only separated by narrow streams from the County of Glamorgan, and the important populous Urban Districts of Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil on the south.

BOUNDARIES.

PARISH OF VAYNOR : EAST SIDE.—The Taf Fechan River from its junction with the Taf Fawr River as far as the junction with the Car Brook.

NORTH SIDE.—From the Car Brook to the junction of the Llysiog Brook with the Taf Fawr River.

WEST SIDE.—Taf Fawr River from its junction with the Taf Fechan River to the junction of the Llysiog Brook and the Taf Fawr River.

PARISH OF PENDERYN : EAST SIDE.—The Taf Fawr River from the Ffrwd Brook to Nantygongarn.

NORTH SIDE.—From Nantygongarn where it joins the River Hepste to the junction of the Rivers Hepste and Mellte, and from the Mellte River to Dinas Rock.

SOUTH SIDE. — From Dinas Rock, following Cwinnant Brook to the Cynon River near Lletty Rhys, and the Cynon River as far as the junction of Nant Hir at Cwm Ynys Mwn Tân, and following Nant Hir Brook to Nant Ffrwd Brook to its junction with the Taf Fawr River.

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION.

The Geological Formation is millstone grit and limestone, merging into old red sandstone to the North. The greater portion of the houses are built on the limestone formation, and have a healthy subsoil. The district is a hilly one, and is favourably situated for drainage. The majority of the inhabitants are employed in the coal-mining industry, the coal measures cropping out immediately to the South of the district. The district itself is purely agricultural, there being no industries of importance.

CLIMATE.

The district is rather exposed, especially the higher table-lands, and its contiguity to the high Brecknock Beacons accounts for the prevalence of a heavy local rainfall.

ACREAGE.

Penderyn	...	13,366.337 acres.
Vaynor	...	6,549.706 acres.
Total	...	<u>19,916.043 acres.</u>

RATEABLE VALUE

As on 30th September, 1925.

	£	s.	d.
Parish of Penderyn	...	13,299	15 0
Parish of Vaynor	...	10,079	10 0
Total	...	<u>23,379</u>	<u>5 0</u>

A Penny Rate produced

in 1925	...	£80	12 3
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POPULATION.

CENSUS, 1921—					Males	Females	Total
Penderyn	1027	978	2005
Vaynor	1877	1792	3669
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>5674</u>
CENSUS RETURNS—					Year 1901	Year 1911	Year 1921
Vaynor and Penderyn	...	...	...	...	<u>4766</u>	<u>5526</u>	<u>5674</u>

The increase from 1911 to 1921 was 2.7 per cent.

HOUSING RETURN—CENSUS 1921.

Penderyn : 446 families in 415 separate dwellings.

Vaynor : 848 families in 830 separate dwellings.

Increase of houses, 1911 to 1921—74.

Increase of families, 1911 to 1921—109.

Average size of dwellings, Vaynor and Penderyn—4.6 rooms.

Average families per dwelling, Vaynor and Penderyn—1.04.

REMARKS,—In 1911 there was already a deficiency of houses ; this was increased from 1911 to 1921 by 35 houses. I calculate that the deficiency of houses in the Rural District is 56 houses. To this we must add 51 houses at Cefn Coed and 18 houses at Hirwaun which are unfit and cannot reasonably be made fit, making a total of 125 additional houses required to properly house the existing population. You will note that the number of families increased by 109 from 1911 to 1921, while the number of houses increased by only 74. The population is estimated to have increased by 276 since 1921, or over 50 additional families. Adding the houses which are insanitary, there is a total deficiency now of 154 houses. This is a serious matter, which I earnestly commend to your attention.

POPULATION, 1925.

The present population of the Rural District is estimated by the Registrar General as 5,904. Last year it was estimated at 5,950, which I considered too high. The present estimate is more in accord with my own, although I think still a little too high.

BIRTHS.—In 1925 the total number of Births was 111 (52 males, 59 females), compared with 107 in 1924.

The Annual Rate of Births was 18.8 per 1,000, compared with 18 per 1,000 last year. The Birth Rate in England and Wales in 1925 was 18.3 per 1,000.

The number of *Illegitimate Births* was 7, the rate being higher than the annual average of the district ; but as I pointed out last year, it is always higher during periods of bad trade.

DEATHS.—The total number of Deaths in 1925 was 82 from all causes (42 males, 40 females). In 1924 the total number was 98.

Death Rate.—The annual Rate of Deaths in 1925 was 13.8 per 1,000, compared with 16.4 in 1924. The rate in 1923 was 13.6. The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1925 was 12.2 per 1,000.

Infantile Death Rate.—This represents the proportion of infants who die under one year per 1,000 births, and is usually regarded as an important indication of the Sanitary Condition of a District. In 1925 the Rate was 99 per 1,000. This compares with 75 per 1,000 in England and Wales in the same period, and is much too high.

There was one death from Measles and 2 from Whooping Cough.

Two deaths of children under two years of age were registered as due to Diarrhoea.

Deaths in Childbirth.—There was no death during 1925 from Puerperal Sepsis or other accidents or diseases of pregnancy and childbirth.

Tuberculosis caused 6 deaths; Heart Disease and Arterial Disease, 15; Cancer 10, compared with 3 in 1924. It is not possible to say yet whether there is a real increase in the incidence of Cancer, or whether the increase is due to a more accurate diagnosis and statement of the cause of death.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were notified only 20 cases of Infectious Diseases in 1925, compared with 39 in 1924. The cases were: Diphtheria, 3; Scarlet Fever, 1; Tuberculosis, 10 (all except 1 being respiratory cases); Pneumonia, 6.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, but the arrangements whereby cases may be removed for isolation to the Isolation Hospitals of Merthyr and Aberdare continues. There is no provision for the isolation of cases of Small Pox.

There was no School closure during the year on account of Infectious Disease.

There continues to be no Steam Disinfectors in the District.

Midwives and Maternity and Child Welfare work is organized and controlled by the County Council, and a Nurse is stationed at Cefn Coed.

A Nursing Association is being formed at Cefn Coed to provide, with the assistance of a grant from the County Council, a Nurse to undertake general nursing at the homes of the working class. It is hoped to start in 1926.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.—This is in charge of a Sanitary Inspector (certificated), who is also Highway Surveyor. The sanitary arrangements consist of a system of sewerage for the two principal villages of Hirwain and Cefn Coed, connected to septic tank outfall works, which act successfully and are properly maintained. There are 983 water-closets connected to these sewers, and the remaining 240 closets are of the pail and cesspit types, at farms and small groups of cottages.

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—There are 3 bakehouses and 1 slaughterhouse in the District, which have been regularly inspected. An additional slaughterhouse has been licensed recently near Cefn Coed.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.—There are 56 cowsheds in the District, and all have been carefully inspected, and standards as to lighting, ventilation, drainage and water supply have been adopted by the Council. For lighting, a standard of one twentieth of the floor area is required, and for ventilation an opening of 30 square inches for each cow. Of the 56 cowsheds, 50 are defective in one respect or another, and 5 are defective in every respect. Notices have been served, and the work of bringing up to the required standard is in progress; but I anticipate that it will take two years to accomplish the improvements, as farmers are slow to move.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total ... 2.

(b) As part of a Housing Scheme ... 0.

Houses inspected, 141.

Number of houses where notice to remedy defects was served, 25. All were complied with.

Number of houses unfit for habitation, 69.

No closing orders were made during the year, and no houses were closed. As previously pointed out, there is a serious shortage of houses, and much overcrowding; 125 additional houses are required to enable any action being taken to close unfit houses and to remedy overcrowding. No demolition orders were made.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is good over the District generally, and of good quality, being from the public mains of the Cardiff, Merthyr and Aberdare Authorities. The supply required at Penderyn has not yet been provided.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—The 3 factories and 21 workshops have been regularly inspected, and are in order. There are no outworkers.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.—The Council has adopted Section 17 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, in respect of the certain streets at Hirwain in the Parish of Penderyn.

BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE.—

1. Bye-laws with respect to new Streets and Buildings.
2. Bye-laws with respect to Common Lodging Houses.
3. Bye-laws with respect to Omnibuses.
4. Bye-laws with respect to Hackney Carriages.
5. Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops.
6. Regulations under the Public Health Act.

I have been delayed in issuing this Report by the prolonged illness and recent death of your late Surveyor.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. W. JONES, M.D., D.P.H.

